

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-45 (canceled).

46. (Previously presented) A method for processing mail, comprising:

- providing a mail piece requiring marking;
- identifying an address to which said mail piece is to be delivered;
- encoding address information for said mail piece;
- affixing a layer of material onto said mail piece, said layer being transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state, said layer reversibly becoming non-transparent upon the application of a stimulus; and
- affixing a marking upon said layer, wherein said marking carries indicia comprising the encoded address information, and

wherein said layer comprises a Lower Critical Solution Binary Polymer Blends and Solutions (LCSPBS) material in at least one of a liquid, a solid solution or a micro encapsulated form.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously presented) A method for processing mail, comprising:

- providing a mail piece requiring marking;
- identifying an address to which said mail piece is to be delivered;
- encoding address information for said mail piece;
- affixing a layer of material onto said mail piece, said layer being transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state, said layer reversibly becoming non-transparent upon the application of a stimulus; and
- affixing a marking upon said layer, wherein said marking carries indicia comprising the encoded address information, and

wherein said layer comprises at least one color former and at least one Lewis acid introduced into a polymer containing material, wherein said polymer containing material is transparent or substantially transparent below a lower critical solution temperature, said polymer containing material reversibly becoming substantially non-transparent above the lower critical solution temperature.

Claims 50-60 (canceled)

61. (Currently amended) ~~The method as in claim 55,~~ A method for processing mail, comprising:

providing a mail piece requiring marking;

identifying an address to which said mail piece is to be delivered;

encoding address information for said mail piece;

affixing a layer of material onto said mail piece, said layer being transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state, said layer reversibly becoming non-transparent upon the application of a stimulus;

affixing a marking upon said layer, wherein said marking carries indicia comprising the encoded address information, said indicia are transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state, and reversibly shift to an optically readable state upon the application of said stimulus; and

wherein said indicia comprise at least one color former and at least one Lewis acid introduced into a polymer containing material, wherein said polymer containing material is transparent or substantially transparent below a lower critical solution temperature, said polymer containing material reversibly becoming non-transparent above the lower critical solution temperature.

Claims 62-65 (canceled).

66. (Previously presented) A method for processing mail, comprising:
- providing a mail piece requiring marking;
 - identifying an address to which said mail piece is to be delivered;
 - encoding address information for said mail piece;
 - affixing a layer of material onto said mail piece, said layer being transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state, said layer reversibly becoming non-transparent upon the application of a stimulus; and
 - affixing a marking upon said layer, wherein said marking carries indicia comprising the encoded address information, and
- wherein at least one application of said layer and marking upon said layer is disposed upon another at least one application of said layer and marking upon said layer, and wherein indicia of each application of said marking is optically readable under a different set of environmental conditions.
67. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 66, wherein said indicia of each said at least one application of said layer and marking upon said layer are transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state and sequentially become optically readable upon a change in environmental conditions.
68. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 66, wherein said indicia of at least one application of said layer and marking upon said layer comprises a code used when sorting the mail piece.
69. (Previously presented) A method for processing mail, the method comprising:
- providing a mail piece requiring marking;
 - identifying address information for said mail piece;
 - encoding said address information;
 - affixing a first layer disposed over the mail piece;
 - affixing a second layer disposed over said first layer, said first and said second layer being substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state, said first

layer becoming optically contrasting with respect to the mail piece in response to a first stimulus, said second layer becoming optically contrasting with respect to said first layer in response to a second stimulus; and

disposing first indicia on said first layer and second indicia on said second layer, said first and second indicia comprising the address information.

70. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 69, where said first stimulus comprises a first temperature, and where said second stimulus comprises a second temperature that is greater than said first temperature.

71. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 69, where said first and second indicia are transparent or substantially transparent in a non-stimulated state and become optically readable in response to a respective stimulus.

72. (Previously presented) The method as in Claim 70, where only said first indicia is readable when exposed to said first temperature, and where said second indicia is readable when exposed to said second temperature.